

Statements of the Russian delegation under agenda item 2
(11.12.2023)

1. Statement in regard of the expression preferences

Dear Madam Chair,

The delegation of the Russian Federation has raised the point of order due to the fact that the representative of Georgia was not authorized to make this statement on behalf of the group. Moreover, if there are any interventions to be done on behalf of the EEG in the absence of elected Bureau members, they should be delivered by the coordinator of the EEG group in Nairobi which currently is the Russian Federation.

In this regard, Madam Chair, we request you to stop the intervention of the representative of Georgia. If this is not done, we ask the delegations present in the room to ignore it.

We request you, Madam Chair, to postpone the secret ballot to a later date in order to enable delegates to receive appropriate instructions from their capitals.

If the speech is continued, we request you in advance, Madam Chair, to immediately give the floor to the Russian Delegation as the next speaker to explain our position on this issue.

2. Statement regarding the search for consensus

During the regional group meetings on Saturday and Sunday, the Russian Federation made every possible effort to achieve consensus in the group regarding candidacies from the EEG countries for elections to the OEWG BUREAU. Unfortunately, our proposal was torpedoed by certain members of the EEG.

In the absence of consensus, the only possible way forward is to hold elections in the plenary setting.

We request you, Madam Chair, to postpone the secret ballot to a later date in order to enable delegates to receive appropriate instructions from their capitals.

At the same time, we would like to inform the delegations present in the room that the meeting to which the representative of Georgia speaking before us was referring to was held in violation of a number of norms established within the UN system.

Firstly, the nomination of all candidates must be carried out in a fully in-person meeting by the delegations physically present in the room. From 23 countries from the EEG region only 8 were physically present at the referred meeting in April.

Secondly, any voting within regional groups, including indicative ones, can only be carried out if all delegations agree to conduct such a vote, and subsequently agree with its results. At least two countries physically present at that meeting clearly objected to hold such a vote. However, the Romanian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Dragos Tigau, who chaired the meeting, ignored the opinions of these countries and held this so-called indicative vote, which has shown the absence of consensus in regard to all proposed candidates.

At the same time, we would like to remind delegations that it was during this meeting that the chair, Mr. Tigau, allowed himself to make an unacceptable racist remark comparing representatives of African countries with monkeys. And the results of this meeting are now being presented to us as an example of multilateral diplomacy decision-making process within the UN system! Therefore, we once again call on all delegations to take part in the vote without any regard to the outcome of the EEG regional group meeting, held in April under the chairmanship of Mr. Tigau, who soon after this incident was requested to terminate the term of his duty as an Ambassador and left Kenya.